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Health Official for Continued Research Into Causes of 'Smog'

Surgeon General Luther Terry of the U. S. Public Health Service has endorsed legislation proposed by Senator Thomas H. Kuchel of California to broaden Federal authority for finding means of curbing air pollution and believes that continued research into "smog" will ultimately lead to cleaner air.

Views of the top health service official were made known Sunday in television and radio programs with the senior California senator carried on California stations.

Placing principal blame for continued atmospheric contamination on automobiles, Dr. Terry told Kuchel that pollution varies from city to city but motor vehicle exhaust emissions appear to be the common important factor in such conditions. He

said that studies under the 1955 Air Pollution Research Act authored by the California lawmaker have resulted in significant findings but that more investigation is essential before dependable controls are possible.

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EDITORIAL PAGE

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Deadline Set for September On City or County Services

A decision on how to operate library facilities for the city of Torrance must be made by the City Council by September. There are two choices: Join the county library system, or set up a municipally-owned facility.

Presently Torrance contracts with the county, and the cost to the taxpayers is 7-cents per \$100 assessed valuation to operate the local libraries.

Councilman J. A. Beasley points out the problem might not have arisen if the county had not raised its rate for operating the Torrance libraries.

"The county has served notice on us that it will cost 16-cents per \$100 assessed valuation under a new contract with Torrance," Beasley said.

Beasley also contends the county could jump as high as 30-cents per \$100 assessed valuation if the county desired.

"I think we ought to set up our own library system," Beasley said, "but we ought to contract with the county for the next two years to make a healthy transition."

The way Beasley sees it the initial cost of setting up a municipal library will be in the neighborhood of \$450,000. He believes after the basic books are purchased Torrance could operate its libraries for 10-cents per \$100 assessed valuation, about six-cents under the county cost.

While cost must be an important factor in any consideration, there are numerous other issues:

Can Torrance attract a better librarian under an independent setup? Will the library be free of local political pressure? Some residents would answer "yes" to both questions. However, others feel the prestige of the county system could not be duplicated by a municipally-operated facility.

Those opposed to a city operation contend book burners could put pressure on a local setup and thereby force out unpopular reading material—both of the left and the right. It is the belief that it is more difficult to influence a county-wide system.

Proponents of the city facility charge the anticipated pressures are imaginative rather than real issues. They point out if a good librarian is hired, the major problems in setting up the system will end.

County spokesmen contend the city cannot operate a good library system cheaper. They substantiate this view by stating it costs as much for either municipal or county operations—if the same degree of service is maintained.

Some city officials believe the degree of service is not the only problem. They say the county is "wasteful and extravagant" in its operation.

County personnel deny this charge. They counter by claiming the city would give inferior service, and it is questionable that the taxpayer would pay less under the municipal operation.

During the last campaign several office seekers said that they made surveys during political meetings and that most of these favored a municipal library.

There's no question that the City Council must make up its mind soon on whether to join the county system permanently, or set up a city facility.

Now's the time for residents of Torrance to appear before the Library Commission and the City Council and make their views known.

If taxpayers do not let the council know what they want, then the council must take its own action. Don't let the library decision be made without expressing your views.



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